Financial Year	No. of crash
2001-2002	00
2002-2003	00
2003-2004	00
2004-2005 (till 9th August, 2004)	01

The loss was made up by inducting 10 new Cheetah helicopters during the period February, 2002 to November, 2003.

International Airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore

1491. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given clearance for the proposed International Airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore; and

(b) if so, whether the Defence Ministry has put pre-conditions for closure of its HAL Airport consequent on the proposed International Airport becoming operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The operation at HAL airport, Bangalore will continue even after Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) becomes functional. In case, HAL airport is closed down the cost of closure would be made good to HAL.

Request for independent inquiry into lapses in Kargil **War**

1492. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received for independent inquiry in the lapses in Kargil war; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No requests have been received in the Ministry of Defence for an independent enquiry into the lapses in the Kargil War. However, the following developments have taken place:—

(i) On 29th July, 1999 the Government constituted the Kargil Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Subrahmanyam. The terms of reference of the Committee were (a) to review the events leading upto the Pakistani aggression in the Kargil District of Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir, and (b) to recommend such measures as are considered necessary to safeguard national security against such armed intrusions.

(ii) The Comptroller & Auditor General reviewed the procurement for Op Vijay (Army) in its Report 7A of 2001, which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 11th December, 2001 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day.

(iii) In addition, a writ has been filed in the Supreme Court on 15th June, 2004 with the prayer that Secretary, Ministry of Defence conduct an inquiry and fix the responsibilities of persons, including officials of Ministry of Defence/Armed Forces responsible for inaction and causing losses to the country in purchasing arms/ammunition and other equipments during Op Vijay.

(b) Action Taken Notes (ATNs) are being sent to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the paragraphs mentioned in the Report of No. 7Aof 2001. The Public Accounts Committee has also taken up the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General for detailed examination. The recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee have been incorporated in the report of the Group of Ministers.

Purchase of arms from an overseas company

1493. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

'(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of rifles and other weapons were purchased for the Indian Army from an overseas company recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;